

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/966,479

Examiner

Ross A. Williams

Applicant(s)

LARK, DAVID

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7-11-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7/11/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron Peters on August 17, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1

Line 15 after "object" replace "inside the playing....said card fronts." with the following -- inside the playing card spaces wherein said display portions of said display object create a single identifiable composite image. --

Claim 7

Line 25 after "object" replace "wherein the portions....said keno numbers." with the following -- inside the keno number spaces wherein said display portions of said display object create a single identifiable composite image. --

Claim 13

Line 30 after "object" replace "wherein the portions....said bingo number spaces." with the following -- inside the bingo number spaces wherein said display portions of said display object create a single identifiable composite image --

Claim 18

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Line 25 after "object" replace "wherein the portions....said playing cards;" with the following -- inside the playing card spaces wherein said display portions of said display object create a single identifiable composite display object. –

Line 28 after "object" replace "wherein the portions....said playing cards;" with the following -- inside the playing card spaces wherein said display portions of said display object create a single identifiable composite display object. –

Claim 21

Line 27 after "object" replace "wherein the portions....said playing cards;" with the following -- inside the playing card spaces wherein said display portions of said display object create a single identifiable composite display object, –

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 7, 13, 18 and 21 are allowable over the prior art of record. The prior art of record Gilmore et al. USPN 6,347,996 teaches a bonus game in which tiles are presented to a player. The player selects the tiles and the tiles are removed to reveal portions of an underlying image such as a map. Bennett USPN 6,015,346 teaches a video slot machine that displays a plurality of indicia images arrange in a matrix to a player. The indicia may be backs of cards or may make up a picture or some other graphic image.

The prior art of record fails to teach the displaying of card spaces, bingo number spaces and keno number spaces wherein the card spaces, bingo number spaces and keno number spaces are changed to display a portion of an object or image. Wherein the portions of an image or object create a single composite image or object.

The claim feature that is distinguishable over prior art is the displaying of portions of an image or object in individual card spaces and bingo or keno number spaces that when viewed as a whole, make up a larger composite image or object. Neither Gilmore et al. or Bennett disclose a card game or keno or bingo game that is programmed to display card spaces, keno number spaces and bingo number spaces that change to display portions of a image or object inside of the card spaces, bingo number spaces, and keno number spaces.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

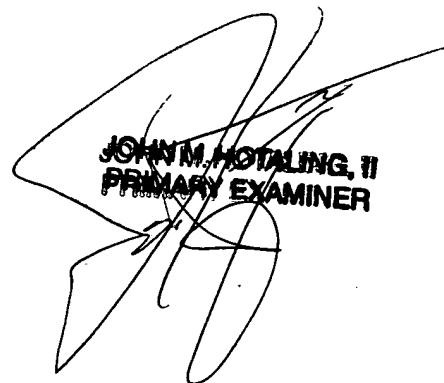
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross A. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-5911. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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8/18/2005


JOHN M. HOTELLING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER